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KIHLMIRE

WESTSIDE TRAIL SYSTEM ANALYSIS & PROPOSAL

OAK RIDGE TRAIL

ELEPHANT MOUNTAIN TRAIL

BEAVER MEADOW TRAIL

MIDDLEBURY RANGER DISTRICT
GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

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INTRODUCTION

It has been a concern of mine, as District Ranger, that we have told the public since 1975 that a Westside Trail System would be constructed. The trail proposal was the central theme for the development of the Westside Composite Plan for L&WCF acquisition (approved 1978). Likewise, the North Half Composite Plan for the Green Mountain National Forest, with its "dispersed recreation" theme, reflected the Westside Trail system once again. Both plans were reviewed extensively with the State of Vermont, the Regional Planning Commissions, and local Town Selectmen.

In order to compliment our land acquisition program, our dispersed recreation management and to maintain our credibility, I feel that we must move ahead on the development of the Westside Trail system.

Therefore, it is the intent of this paper to become the catalyst to allow the Middlebury Ranger District to move ahead with the trail project. To do so, I propose to develop the following:

1. A project proposal
2. Construction time table
3. Budgetary proposal
4. R.O.S. to interface affected areas with the Forest Plan
5. Public I&I Plan
6. R.O.G. pages for trail sections

Concerns to be addressed are prior commitments for the trails, conflicts with other user groups or management activities, rights-of-way needs, with publics, energy concerns, and signing.

PURPOSE

The role of the Forest Service in outdoor recreation is to provide the public a place where they can see and enjoy the natural environment and likewise, a place where they can spend leisure time utilizing products of their environment (Coutant, 1979). In addition, the objective of the Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Policy is to emphasize dispersed recreation management (Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Plan, 197C and North Half Composite Plan, 1979).

The objective of the Westside Trail is many fold:

1. To relieve the heavy user pressures on the Long Trail system (SCORP, 1976).

2. To offer a family type trail system -- day use trails [illegible] miles long.

3. To open an extensive area of the Middlebury Ranger District for dispersed use (access).

4. To expose the public to resource management activities of the District.

5. To provide a multiple purpose trail where possible (hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, etc.)

6. To provide a trail system which can provide variety for the day hiker yet sufficient length for overnight camping.

7. To provide a trail system which could be connected to a State system at a later date (SCORP, 1976).

8. To provide a multi-season facility.

METHODS

The following methodology was used to thoroughly analyze the proposed Westside Trail System. Due to time constraints, several sections of this project are not completed but are left open-ended to be completed at a later date. Likewise, application of "Code-a-Site", for example, is dependent upon field investigations which can best be completed during the summer and fall months.

1. A review of literature was made to ascertain availability of published information, appropriatness of the proposal and instruction as how to carry out or analyze phases of the proposal.

2. Public contacts were made to determine the philosophies used in developing how the trail would be located, managed, and constructed.

3. The proposal was analyzed using:

   a. Ecological Land Typing Information (ELTs) to determine suitability of soils and vegetative types for trail location.

   b. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (R.O.S.) in conjunction with the Forest Recreation Plan Experience levels to determine compatibility of the proposal with Forest objectives and development crowding.

4. Two new recreation management tools were introduced to the District and applied to the Westside Trail System proposal.

   a. Recreation Opportunity Guide

   b. Code-a-Site

5. Field reviews were made to determine suitability of proposed project location.

6. An I&I Plan was developed to gain additional information as support from the general public, clubs, and other governmental agencies.

7. A timetable was developed to initiate the project and to project the completion dates and budgetary needs.

8. Analyze the existing trail use on the District and desires of the recreation user.

9. Analyze potential conflicts of the trail proposal with other management areas uses.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Clark, Roger N. and Stankey, George H., 1979, "The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, A Framework For Recreation Planning, Management, and Research."

   - this paper discussed the R.O.S. background and how it is used for identifying and measuring impacts of alternatives and management actions.

   - the paper discussed the relationship of recreation opportunities and experiences, opportunity setting factors, and the use of R.O.S. The application of R.O.S. includes 1) allocation and planning, 2) resource inventory, 3) estimating consequences of management decisions, and 4) delineating and matching experiences desired by the public with inventoried opportunities.

2. Forest & Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, 1974, (P.L. 93-978)

   - the act cites the importance of dispersed type recreation pursuits indicates the need to expand such opportunity, and directs the Federal agencies to participate in the expansion of the opportunities. Acquisition of additional land to meet increaseddispersed recreation needs is emphasized.

3. "Green Mountain National Forest Land Management Plan," 1975, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

   - according to the Forest Plan, the major recreation objective for the Forest will be to provide a wide range of high quality Forest-oriented recreational opportunities with highest priority given to the development and management of recreation facilities which provide for dispersed recreation use. This would include the development of day use hiking trails, trail networks with common trailhead facilities, primitive campsites adjacent to hiking trails, and the provision for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

4. Hendee, John C., Clark, Roger N., Hogans, Mack L., Wood, Dan, Koch, Russell W., 1976, "Code-A-Site."

   - discusses the application of "Code-A-Site" as a tool to determine where dispersed recreation activities are occurring and to determine site impacts.

5. "Hiking Study," 1979, Recreation Management Program, School of Natural Resources, University of Vermont.

   - currently, this is an on-going research project which includes the Middlebury Ranger District. The purpose of this project is to research recreation conflict in Vermont.

   - likewise, the objective of the study is to describe the amount, location and distribution of hiking use, user characteristics, and associated user activities.

6. Larsen, Donald K., 1978, "Recreation Management Plan," Green Mountain National Forest.

   - there have been some significant changes, which have occurred since the New England Guide projections of 1970. Most significant is a more dynamic increase of dispersed off-road activity.

   - the Plan shows and supports the need to acquire experience levels I and II to meet the expected increase in use.

   - the Recreation Plan describes experience levels, crowding, recreation objectives, and how to incorporate recreation management into Forest planning.

7. "New England Area Guide," 1970, Green and White Mountain National Forest.

   - the Area Guide directs the Green Mountain National Forest to provide a wide range of high quality recreational opportunities with emphasis on the development and improvement of dispersed recreational facilities.

8. "North Half Composite," 1978, Green Mountain National Forest, Land and Water Conservation Fund Proposal.

   - the North Half Composite is within a one day drive of 35 million people. Two hundred thousand people live within 25 miles of the composite.

   - Statewide needs, as spelled out in Vermont SCORP, which can be accommodated by the North Half Composite include: the acquisition of scenic and natural areas; the expansion of existing public land holdings; the development of trail systems; and the acquistion of lands for extensive multipurpose use.

   - the lands shown in the Composite as desirable acquistion will provide the open spaces for dispersed recreation opportunity and will insure that the lands are accessible to the general public.

   - the Vermont SCORP is being extensively revised. The new SCORP will support the Green Mountain National Forest recreation planning and may show the National Forest vicinity as a separate subunit for SCORP planning purposes.

- based upon the criteria stated in the Forest Recreation Plan, experience level I and II opportunity areas are characteristic of the present National Forest land base. Inholdings which in time could degrade this experience level quality should be assigned a high priority for purchase. The degree of conflict or impact is also associated with location.

9. Phillips, Robert 1979, "Interfacing Recreation into Land Management Planning, "Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, North Carolina.

- this paper illustrated the use of capacity coefficient ranges to calculate P.A.O.T. days and R.V. days for each R.O.S. zone.

10. "Recreation Opportunity Guide" -- Manual, 1979, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

- this guide develops the step-by-step procedure to use the Recreation Opportunity Guide as a tool to direct people to desired activities or interests. Likewise, this sytem aids in reducing pressures on heavily impacted areas.

11. Shands, William E. & Healy, Robert G., 1977, The Lands Nobody Wanted, Conservation Fund Report.

- it recommends that public and private lands should complement one another in providing recreation benefits. Private lands should provide most of the highly developed services used by the Forest visitors.

- also stated is that public lands in the eastern National Forests should emphasize dispersed recreation, particularly the type requiring large contiguous parcels of undeveloped land.

12. "Timber Management Plan," 1977, Green Mountain National Forest.

- the plan refers to modifying timber management practices to meet recreation requirements in management areas. The plan also recognizes the intensive and dispersed four seasons recreation use of the Forest, and states that timber management will be sensitive to visual management and recreation concerns.

- all Forest timbering operations have been and will continue to be done under recreation coordination to enhance the recreation experience level. Diversity of cover types and projection of the visual backdrop will be stressed.

13. "Vermont State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan," 1973, updated as of 1976.

- this plan identifies three major statewide needs. These include: the acquisition of lands for low intensity multipurpose recreation and the development of trail systems.

- SCORP discusses trails and their uses within the State of Vermont. It describes the overuse of certain portions of trails, such as the Long Trail within the Green Mountain range, and suggests the creation of casual one-day hiking trails.

- one of SCORP's acquisition goals is to insure accessible open space and recreation opportunity.

R.O.S. - APPLICATION

Criteria spelled out in the Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Plan was compared to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (R.O.S.) criteria to determine the compatibilty of the two systems as applied to the Westside project area. As a result, it was found that the Green Mountain Recreation Plan had five experience levels (zones) vs the six zones of the R.O.S. Therefore, through discussion of the two systems with the Landscape Architect, Don Larsen, a modification of the Green Mountain Recreation Plan criteria was made.

Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Plan (Current)

Experience Levels	Zone Limits	Width of Zone (Per .1 zone limit)
1	0 - 1.5	528' (8 chain)
2	1.5 - 2.5	264' (4 chain)
3	2.5 - 3.5	132' (2 chain)
4	3.5 - 4.5	66' (1 chain)
5	4.5 - 5.5	33' (.5 chain)

Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Plan (Modified to be consistent with R.O.S.

R.O.S. Class	Zone Limits	Width of Zone (Per .1 zone limit
Primitive	0 - 1.5	528' (8 chain)
Semi-primitive non-motorized	1.5 - 2.5	264' (4 chain)
Semi-primitive motorized	1.5 - 2.5	264' (4 chain)
Rural	2.5 - 3.5	132' (2 chain)
Semi-Rural	3.5 - 4.5	66' (1 chain)
Urban	4.5 - 5.5	33' (.5 chain)

The Westside Project Area falls within sub-units #3 and #7 of the North Half Unit of the Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Plan. The acreage by

R.O.S. class was determined by mapping in compliance to the criteria above, using the benchmarks as given in the Recreation Plan, and adjusting the zones based upon personal knowledge of the areas and current management constraints. The major management constraint which modified the zones was road closures. Also, it was felt that if the only motorized vehicles used in R.O.S. zone "semi-primitive non-motorized" were snowmobiles, the zone would not be switched to "semi-primitive motorized." The use of snowmobiles is seasonal.

Acreage by R.O.S. Zone

R.O.S. Zone	Sub-unit III	Sub-unit VII
Primitive	0	0
S.P.N.M.	4594	5485
S.P. Motorized	6996	8405
Rural	3466	2364
S. Rural	1080	287
Urban	0	0

The objective of applying the R.O.S. was to interface the proposal and existing experience levels with the Forest planning efforts.

Capacity Coefficient Range

R.O.S. Class	PAOT/Acre		V.D./Acre/Year	
	Low	High	Low	High
Primitive	.014	.032	3.5	8
S.P.N.M.	.030	.122	7	30
S.P.M.	.030	.122	7	30
Rural	.122	.500	30	180
Semi-Rural	.500	2.0	180	490
Urban	2.0	7.5	490	1825

Computations

Sub-unit III

Zone	Acres	PAOT		Visitor Days	
		Low	High	Low	High
Primitive	0	0	0	0	0
S.P.N.M.	4594	138	560	32158	127820
S.P.M.	6996	210	854	48972	209880
Rural	3466	423	1733	103980	623880
S.Rural	1080	540	2160	194400	529200
Urban	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	16,136	1311	5307	379,510	1,500,780

Sub-unit VII

Zone	Acres	PAOT Low	PAOT High	Visitor Days Low	Visitor Days High
Primitive	0	0	0	0	0
S.P.N.M.	5485	165	669	38395	164550
S.P.M.	8405	252	1025	58835	252150
Rural	2364	288	1182	70920	425520
S.Rural	287	144	574	51660	140630
TOTAL	16,541	849	3450	219,810	982,850

By selecting the mid-range of the coefficients, the PAOT was calculated for the entire project area.

Now the mid-range guidelines of the Recreation Plan was used to determine the existing degree of development with respect to R.O.S. classes. Then, the proposed project was added to see if the new degree of development would be compatible. The S.P.N.M., S.P.M., and rural zones were considered as level 2 for this purpose and compared to the mid-range for the travelway element in the Forest Recreation Plan.

Planning Guidelines for 1000 acre Increments

Recommended (Level 2 - midrange)

Element	Unit of Measure	Degree of Development
Travelway	Miles	3
Travelway corridor land	% of total	15
Travelway capacity	PAOT	18

Existing		Sub-unit 3		Sub-unit 7
Travelway	Miles (total 30.5 miles)	2.0	(total 58 miles)	3.58
Travelway corridor land	% of total	10		18
Travelway capacity	PAOT	12		21.5

Existing and Proposed

Travelway	Miles (total 35 miles)	2.3	(total 63 miles)	3.89
Travelway corridor land	% of total	12		19
Travelway capacity	PAOT	13.8		23.3

Having applied the planning guidelines and R.O.S. zoning criteria to sub-units #III and VII of the North Half Composite of the Green Mountain National Forest. The following analysis was made:

1. The proposed Westside Trail system would not over develop sub-units #III and VII.

2. The trail system would not change, but would compliment existing R.O.S. zones.

3. Any project; whether it be a timber road proposal, a new campground or opening an area to ORV's could be analyzed for its impact upon R.O.S. zones and Forest's objectives.

4. The R.O.S. shows priority lands needed to protect certain experience levels.

5. Recreation can now be analyzed in planning efforts -- trade-offs can graphically be shown.

6. The R.O.S. system allows a manager to state whether a proposal by private enterprise on National Forest land is compatible or not.

R.O.G. APPLICATION

The Middlebury Ranger District has only recently been exposed to the Recreation Opportunity Guide. The objective of applying the R.O.G. to the Westside Trail system project is to initiate the process on the Middlebury Ranger District and possibly the Forest. By having the system started as each section of the Westside Trail is completed, it can be added to the District collection. Two trail sections (Rattlesnake Cliffs and Chandler Ridge)were developed for R.O.G. (see Exhibit A).

Through analysis of the R.O.G. application, the following were found:

1. Application of R.O.G. to Westside Trail will include the following:

   A. x-c skiing
   B. snowmobiling
   C. berry picking
   D. camping
   E. hiking
   F. viewing outstanding scenery
   G. hunting
   H. picnicking
   I. fishing

2. By having knowledge of the R.O.G. system as a person lays out the trail system, an inventory can be developed to compliment the R.O.G. system.

3. The Middlebury Ranger District and Forest currently need a way to give information to the public. The R.O.G. will do what is wanted and will be easily updated as new trail sections are made.

Application of R.O.G. has been started and will be expanded for the District beginning with high priority information needs and working toward less important (but needed) information and direction for the public.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

The Westside Trail System has potential for conflict with the following user groups and resource management activities:

User Groups

1. horseback riders
2. x-c skiers
3. snowmobilers
4. hikers

Resource Activities

1. Timber management activities

   - Sales and associated roads
   - T.S.I.
   - Reforestation
   - Trail Buffer Strips

2. Wildlife Habitat Management

Conflicts among the user groups are not as strong as they were in the past (5 years ago). The greatest possible conflict would be between the hiker and the horseback rider. To date, however, the horse use on the National Forest has been light and the users prefer logging roads, over the hiking trails. It is highly feasible that portions of the Westside Trail System will allow not only hiking, but x-c skiing, snowmobiling, or horseback riding. Possible, portions of the trail will accomodate all four uses. Determination of compatibility of uses on trail sections will be made based upon suitability of terrain and ELT's for user groups other than hiking (see criteria for trail location).

As stated in the introduction one objective of the Westside Trail system is to show the public what type of projects occur in their National Forest. It has been the concern of the timber and wildlife staff on both the District and in the Supervisor's Office that a corridor would be delineated with this trail. The Long Trail on the Forest has such a corridor and it precludes normal timber management activities across or adjacent to the trail for 3 chains either side of the trail. It is important that the objectives of this trail be spelled out on the Forest plan and perpetuated.

Camping along the Westside Trail System may be in conflict with the objectives of the Town watersheds. The trail will pass through three; Town of Middlebury, Town of East Middlebury, and the Town of Leicester. Whether or not camping is permitted in the watersheds will be worked out with the Selectmen of the applicable town. The greatest concern would be the Leicester watershed. The other two are deep wells and unaffected by surface water.

CODE-A-SITE

The system of inventoring dispersed recreation use areas known as "Code-A-Site" will be initiated. Implementation should be according to the following timetable.

AREA	FISCAL YEAR
Rt. 73 to Silver Lake	
Chandler Ridge	1981
Leicester Hollow	1981
Silver Lake Area	
Lake Trail	1980
East Side Access	1980
West Side Access	1980
Mt. Moosalamoo	
Moosalamoo Loop Trail	1980
Moosalamoo to Rt. 125	1982
Rt. 125 to Abbey Pond	1983
Abbey Pond to N. Trailhead on FR #90	1982
Abbey Pond Trail	1980

This will be the first application of "Code-A-Site" on the Middlebury Ranger District. It should prove to be a valuable management tool and will be used on other areas of the District.

ECOLOGICAL LAND TYPES

Ecological land types (ELT) were used to pick out areas particularly well suited or predominantly poorly suited for trails. Between these extremes, ELT descriptions and maps show the distribution and characteristics of units of land fifty to several hundred acres in size. Knowing these characteristics, we then know what kind of land conditions we must deal with in planning a trail location.

Specifically, ELT's contain inclusions which will affect the final trail location. Thus, we use the ELT map to identify suitable corridors for the trails and follow this up with a careful ground search to locate the specific routes.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Within the geographic area outlined on the maps, there are management and resource constraints as well as numerous opportunities. Existing travelways are abundant particularly north of Route 125. For the sake of efficiency and considering the purpose of the trail, it can follow some of these travelways. Most of the major attractions (peaks, vistas, bogs, and lakes) are in the western half of the area. This information focused the search for a final route. Landownership is generally not a problem except just south of Rt. 125 where the trail must detour around privately owned land. There are a limited number of feasible and safe trailhead locations along Rt. 125 and Little Notch Road (see map). By using a system of overlays including ELT's, blending of existing facilities and constrictions - landownership and trailheads - with the potentials - points of interest and feasible locations from ELT's or on-the-ground reconnaissance, was possible.

Once it was determined that the western edge of the planning area seemed most advantageous for a trail, I began, among other things, looking at ELT's. Because of generally favorable soil and land conditions, we favored ELT 103b, 103d, 110d, and ridgelines in 102b, 102d, and 105b. Overall, they are well drained. In 103b and 103d, there are inclusions of wet or seepy soils, but these can be largely avoided when the trail route is flagged. These inclusions are most common in the 103b and 103d units around Abbey Pond, Beaver Meadows, and immediately south of Rt. 125. ELT 102b, 102d, and 105b are usually steep and very shallow to bedrock with numerous outcrops. However, on ridgetops they often provide firm, well drained trail treads with occasional vistas.

ELT's 103a, 621d, and sideslopes in 102b, 102d, and 105b were avoided where practical. This was not always possible. ELT 621d occurs along the Middlebury River. To avoid this ELT would have meant a long detour off the main trail corridor. Most of the sideslope portions of 102b, 102d, and 105b, were avoided. North of Mt. Moosalamoo, it is necessary to follow Hale Brook Road to accomplish this. Around Beaver Meadows, it will probably be necessary to cross ELT 103a more than once. This may require puncheon or other trail hardening measures on hiking trails. However, to take advantage of the unique and interesting characteristics of Beaver Meadows, it was felt that this is a worthwhile decision. Where possible, the main trail and loops follow somewhat improved road travelways across ELT 103a.

FINAL TRAIL LOCATION

The final location for the Westside Trail System is a site specific project which depends upon many factors:

1. Volume and kind of use expected.

2. Location and type of existing trails, roads, or other activities and their compatibility with the new trail.

3. Location of prospective trailheads or major stream crossings.

4. Landownership

5. Points of interest or destinations

6. Aesthetic and experience qualities

7. Land conditions

    a. internal soil drainage
    b. surface runoff or seeps
    c. slope gradient
    d. nature and extent of bedrock outcrops
    e. texture (as it affects erodibility and bearing capacity)

8. Desires of the land manager

The trail location as shown in the map section of the exhibits reflects all aspects above, but will have to be refined by field checks and exact locations.

SUMMARY

I personally found it to be a very enlightening experience to attempt to apply management tools such as R.O.S., R.O.G., Ecological Land Typing, and Code-A-Site to a proposed project. These tools are new to the District and myself.

By applying knowledge gained in this project to future projects on this District, it will be feasible to determine impacts or trade-offs between recreation and other resources. Additional refinement will be needed in R.O.S. to be able to interface sub-units III and VII (as discussed in this report) with the on-going Forest planning efforts. Likewise, R.O.G. and Code-A-Site were only initiated and will need much work to complete for Sub-units III and VII and to develop into Districtwide tools.

APPENDIX

HIKING

EXHIBIT A

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Green Mountain National Forest
Middlebury Ranger District

OAK RIDGE TRAIL/MOOSALAMOO AREA

TRAIL BEGINNING, 900 ft. elev. (274m.) At the turnoff .5 mi. above St. Rt. 52 on the Silver Lake Access Trail

TRAIL ENDING, Same point as beginning -- Loop Trail

ACCESS #1: Via State Rt. 53. Walk .5 miles up Silver Lake Access Trail from Rt. 53 parking lot. Trail turns north across Sucker Brook.

ACCESS #2: Via F.R. #32 to Moosalamoo C.G. - trail starts at C.G. entrance - northwest and south.

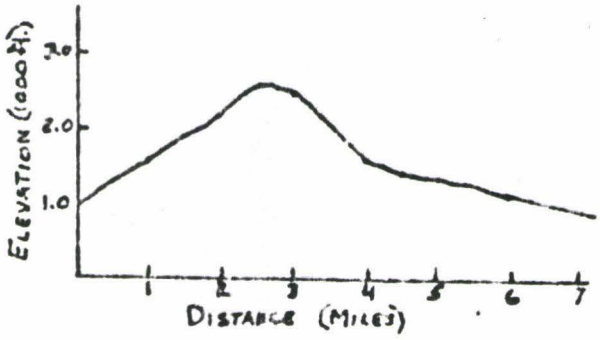
ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS
From St. Rt. 53, the trail crosses Sucker Brook and passes over Rattlesnake Cliff then up to Mt. Moosalamoo to an elevation of 2620'. Then to Moosalamoo C.G. and returning to the beginning point by way of N. Branch and Sucker Brook.

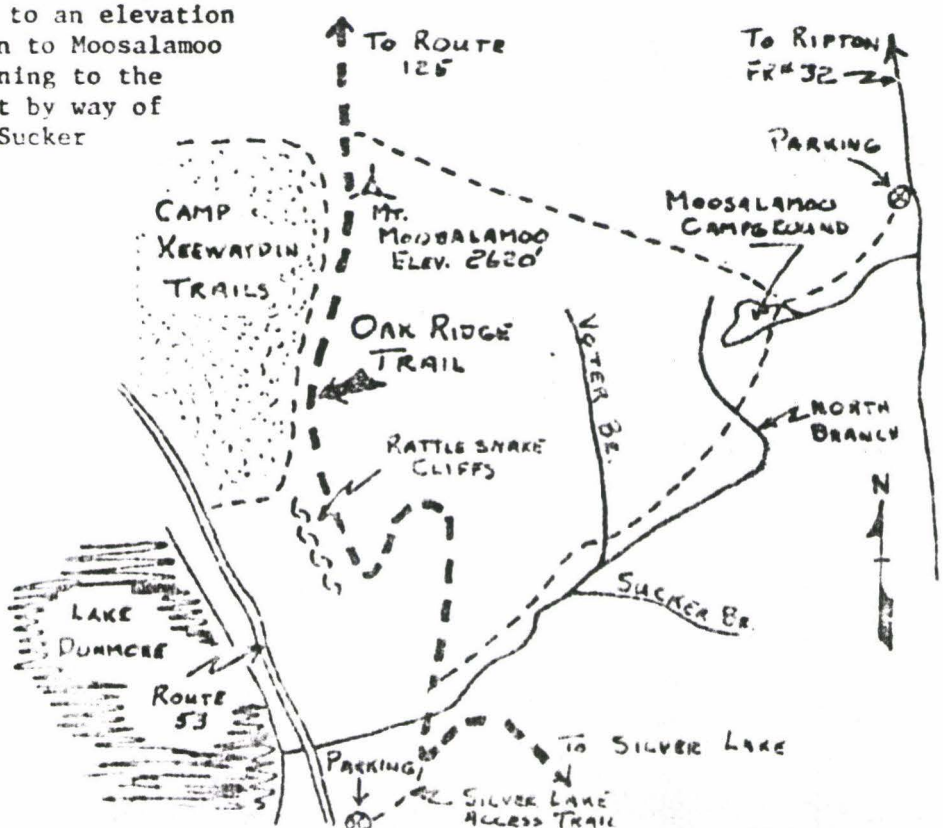
OAK RIDGE TRAIL #_____

Length: 3.5 mi. (5.6km)
Recommended Season:

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
	←	→	

Use: Moderate
Difficulty: Moderate
F.S. Map(s): East Middlebury Quad





NARRATIVE - OAK RIDGE TRAIL/MOOSALAMOO AREA

This trail leaves the Silver Lake access trail about .5 miles above the State Route 53 parking lot. The trail heads northward across Sucker Brook and the Falls of Lana Area through a hemlock-fir stand then climbs to the Rattlesnake Cliffs which overlook Lake Dunmore and the Champlain Valley. From the Rattlesnake Cliffs, the trail continues to Mt. Moosalamoo through a northern hardwood type of beech, birch, and maple. The elevation of Mt. Moosalamoo is 2620; with beautiful views of the Green Mountains. From Mt. Moosalamoo the trail drops through a beech-birch-maple stand (which shows evidence of past even-aged management) to Moosalamoo Campground. From here, the trail crosses the newly constructed Voter Brook timber sale road and passes through the Voter Brook Sale area then down along the North Branch to the point of beginning. The trail is a loop trail marked with rectangular blue blazes on the trees.

EXHIBIT A

HIKING

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Green Mountain National Forest
Middlebury Ranger District

OAK RIDGE TRAIL/CHANDLER RIDGE AREA

TRAIL BEGINNING, 900 ft. elev. (274 m) At the end of Town of Brandon Rd. #22 (F. R. #40), .5 miles from St. Rt. #73.

TRAIL ENDING, 1260 ft. elev. (384 m) At junction of Silver Lake Trail on west side of Silver Lake.

ACCESS #1: Via Leicester Hollow Road. Walk past cement bridge 100', turn west up bank. Parking on Leicester Hollow Road at trailhead.

ACCESS #2: Via Silver Lake Trail to west side of lake. Turn west up hillside.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS
The beginning of the Oak Ridge Trail passes through Leicester Hollow. The trail then passes along Chandler Ridge then to Silver Lake. The trail overlooks Leicester Hollow, Champlain Valley, Fern Lake, Lake Dunmore, and Silver Lake.

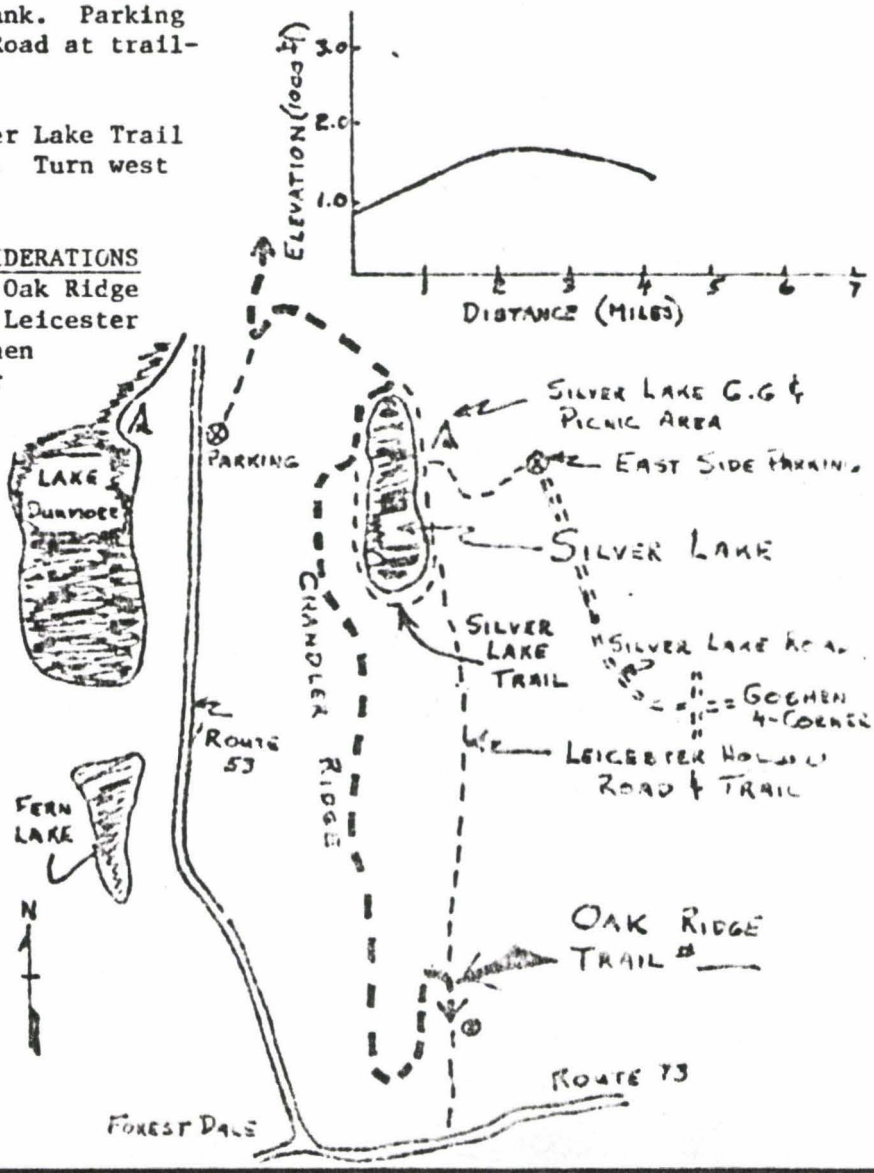
OAK RIDGE TRAIL #_____

Length: 4.2 mi. (6.75 km)

Recommended Season:

SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER

Use: Moderate
Difficulty: Easy
F. S. Map(3): Brandon Quad
: East Middlebury Quad



NARRATIVE - OAK RIDGE TRAIL/CHANDLER RIDGE AREA

This trail leaves Leicester Hollow Road and trail just beyond the first cement bridge crossing leicester Hollow Brook. The trail is marked with blue rectangular blazes on the trees. The first mile passes across an oak flat then begins to ascent Chandler Ridge. Red oak, chestnut oak, and a few northern hardwoods dominate the first mile. The second and third miles of the trail are located in a rocky, northern hardwood type. This section affords views of Leicester Hollow, Fern Lake, Lake Dunmore, and the Champlain Valley. The last section of the trail is characterized by a change to a spruce-fir-hemlock mix with the northern hardwoods. At one point both Silver Lake and Lake Dunmore can be seen simultaneously.

Management activities along this trail include x-c ski trails, snowmobile trails, Brandon Watershed, a natural research area, and future timber management activities on the more gentle side slopes.

EXHIBIT B
PROJECT PROPOSAL

Project Identification: Westside Trail System

Proponent: Middlebury Ranger District, Green Mountain National Forest

Location:

Towns: Bristol, Middlebury, Ripton, Salisbury, Leicester, and Brandon

Counties: Addison and Rutland

Recreation Sub-Units: Sub-units III and VII of the Green Mountain National Forest Recreation Plan

Project Description:

Project consists of a trail network to interconnect existing and proposed trails to provide a continuous path from the Little Notch Road in Bristol to Route 73 in Brandon. Included in the project will be:

1. trail construction

2. inventory of dispersed sites by the use of Code-A-Site

3. mapping of the trails on the R.O.G. system

4. trailhead parking lot construction

5. one major foot bridge to cross the Middlebury River

6. recommendation for designation of this trail on the "National Recreation Trail system" upon completion of the trail.

Project Purpose:

1. To construct a new multi-purpose trail system for the purpose of hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Snowmobile use will occur on portions of the trail and is compatible.

2. To provide a new extended hiking trail as an alternative to and to divert use from, the Long Trail, side trails to the Long Trail, and the Bristol Cliffs Wilderness.

3. To provide a series of day hike opportunities.

4. To consolidate and regulate trail uses in the western portions of the District. This trail system will concentrate use on a managed system rather than allow the creation of numerous single purposes routes.

5. To compliment the intent of the North Half Composite Plan for land acquisition.

6. To provide a trail system useable by the family.

7. To allow the public to see Forest management.

Physical Characteristics:

Length: 28.7 miles

Elevation: 900 feet to 2600 feet

Soils: See E.L.T. map

Development Schedule:

Trail Section	Length	Fiscal Year
Route 73 ---- Silver Lake	4.2	1979
Silver Lake ---- Mt. Moosalamoo	3.5	Existing
Mt. Moosalamoo ---- Rt. 125	5.0	1980
Rt. 125 ---- Abbey Pond	5.0	1982
Abbey Pond ---- North Trailhead	1.5	1981
Elephant Mtn. Loop	4.0	1981
Robert Frost Mtn. Loop	5.5	1983

Trailheads	Fiscal Year
Leicester Hollow	1981
Silver Lake East	Existing
Silver Lake West	1982
Moosalamoo Campground	1981
Route 125	1982
F. R. #90	1981
Abbey Pond	1981
Dragon Brook Road	1982

Bridges	Fiscal Year
Middlebury River	1982
Right-of-Ways	**Length**
Middlebury College Land	.5 mi.
International Paper Company Land	.3 mi.

Campsites

Campsites will not be developed at this time. A determination will be made as to where camping naturally occurs and analyzed for suitability.

FY 82 PROGRAM BUDGET NARRATIVE (NFS)

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

FOREST NAME: Green Mountain

FOREST PRIORITY: 1 DATE: February 1, 1980

PROJECT NAME: Oak Ridge Trail and Northern Loops

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION: X TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION: ____

TRAIL TYPE: HIKING X SNOMO X XC SKI X HORSE ____ OTHER (SPECIFY) ____

TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH (MILES): 29

LENGTH CONSTRUCTED PRIOR TO FY 82: 15.7 miles
LENGTH PROPOSED FOR FY 82 CONSTRUCTION: 4 miles
UNCOMPLETED LENGTH FOLLOWING FY 82 CONSTRUCTION: 8 miles

FY 82 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION STARTING POINT: North Branch Road

FY 82 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION TERMINATING POINT: 4 miles north

REQUIRED AMOUNT OF CLEARING AND GRUBBING: HEAVY ____ MODERATE 4 LIGHT ____

ACTIVITIES	*EST. COST BY FISCAL YEAR (M$)				
	<80	81	82	83	84>
Trail Preconstruction	1	1			
Trailway Construction	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
- Miles Planned/FY	4	4	4	4	4
Trailway Structures					
Trailhead Facilities		20.0(2)	20.0(1)	20.0(2)	
Bridges			20.0		
- Number Needed/FY			(1)		
Signing	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2
HRP Contributions Apprn. ____	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0

OTHER SUPPORT COST

ACTIVITIES	*EST. COST BY FISCAL YEAR (M$)				
	<80	81	82	83	84>
Rights-of-Way		(1) .5	(2) 1.0		
Land Line Location	-	-	-	-	
Cultural Resource	.3	.3	.3	.3	
Soil and Water	.1	.1	.1	.1	
Engineering	.4	.4	.4	.4	
____					
____					

*Cost should be total Forest cost including all GA estimates. Cost for FY 82 and beyond will be expressed in base year 1982 dollars.

EXHIBIT C

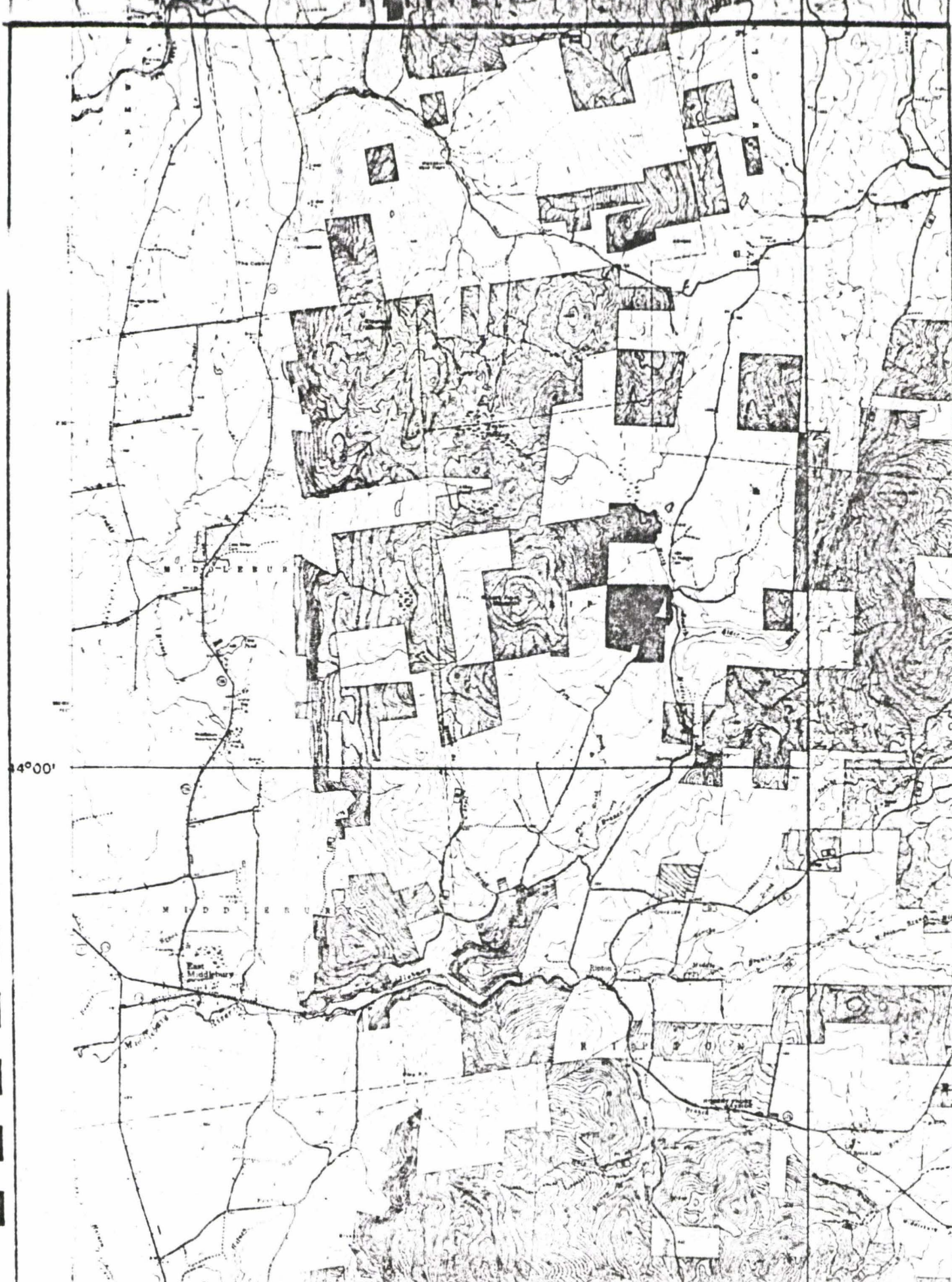
I&I PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

PUBLIC	CONCERN	CONTACT TO BE MADE BY	DATE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED	ACCOMPLISHMENT
1. Addison County Planning Commission	County planning zoning, and input to S.C.O.R.P.	District Ranger	Fall 1979 Spring 1980	Informal contacts with 2 of the Regional Planning Commission
2. Town Planning Commissions: Bristol Middlebury Salisbury Leicester	Problems concerned with parking, vandalism, etc. Town input to Regional Planning Commission	District Ranger or Resource Assistant	Spring 1980	Middlebury Town Planner contacted and plan discussed
3. Town Selectmen: Bristol Middlebury Salisbury Leicester	General infor. and input -- handle with other associated meetings -- plowing of parking lots, etc. Concern of trails in watersheds	District Ranger or Resource Assistant	Summer 1980	
4. x-c ski centers: Blueberry Hill Churchill House	Centers are oriented to 4 seasons use -- Inn to Inn hiking is of great concern. Trail will offer greater latitude also, possibilities of dual use of trails, Ex: hiking and skiing/snowmobile	Resource Assistant	Spring 1980	Blueberry Hill Ski Center contacted

PUBLIC	CONCERN	CONTACT TO BE MADE BY	DATE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED	ACCOMPLISHMENT
5. Snowmobile Clubs: Foot of the Mtn. Neshobe Sportsmen	Currently area is crossed by many snowmobile trails improvement of trails possible with dual use	Resource Assistant	Spring 1980	Foot of the Mtn. and Neshobe Snowmobile Clubs contacted
6. District employees (Middlebury)	General concern for district activities questions from timber shop, etc. as to impacts on their programs	District Ranger and Resource Assistant	Spring 1980	Plan was discussed with District employees
7. Supervisor's Office Forest Supervisor and Prime Staff	Concerns for correct project proposal and specialists input and budgetary proposals	District Ranger	Winter 1980	Proposal discussed with Soil & Water Staff, Engineering, Landscape Architect, and Recreation Staff
8. Adjacent Private Landowners: Town of Middlebury International Paper Company Middlebury College Spears	Concerns about what is occurring adjacent to their lands -- need of R.O.W.'s from landowners	District Ranger and Resource Assistant	Spring 1980	Business Manager for the Middlebury College was contacted.
9. Local Hiking Clubs Breadloaf Section of G.M. Club Midd. College Hiking Club Green Mountain Club	Clubs are interested in reduction of impact on Long Trail and new trails for club outings and possible cooperative agreements Update of trail booklets	Resource Assistant	Summer 1980	Middlebury College Hiking Club and Green Mtn. Club contacted

PUBLIC	CONCERN	CONTACT TO BE MADE BY	DATE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED	ACCOMPLISHMENT
10. State of Vermont Department of Recreation	Concerns for facilities which compliment their facilities -- Branbury State Park, etc.	Resource Assistant	Spring 1980	State of Vermont Department contacted
11. General Public	Keeping up-to-date with National Forest projects	Resource Assistant - news release - tabloid (fall)	Summer 1980	

EXHIBIT D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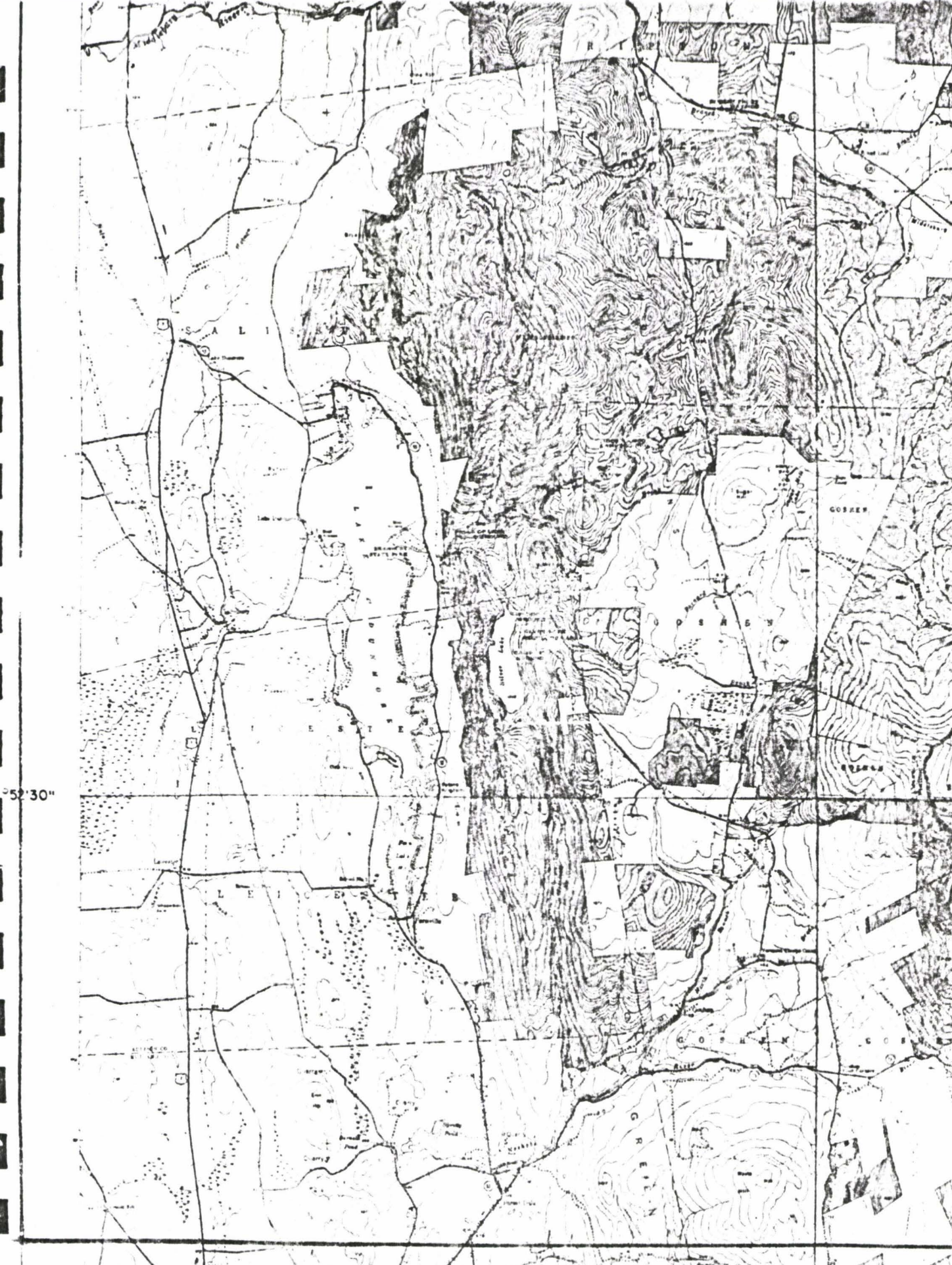
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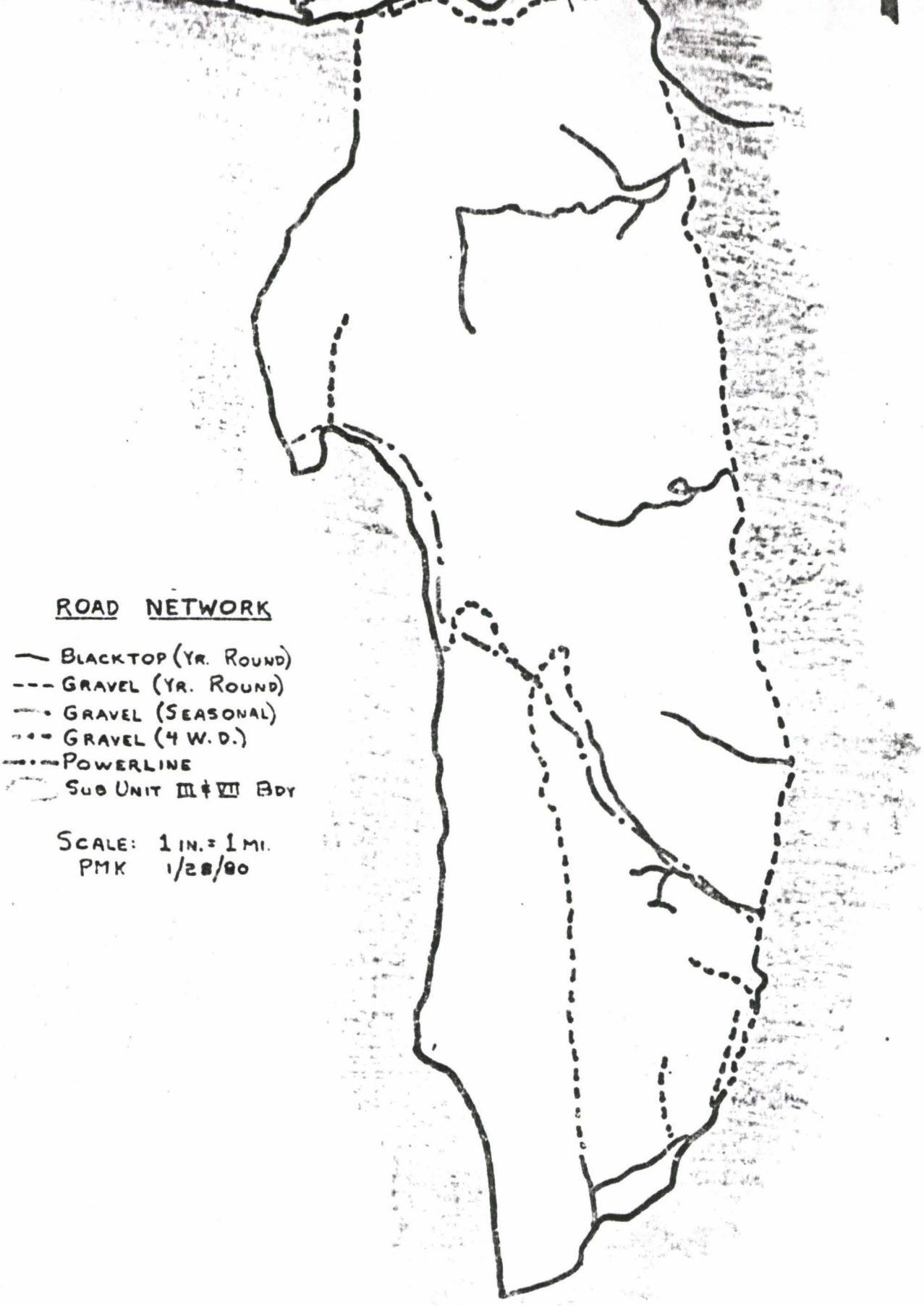
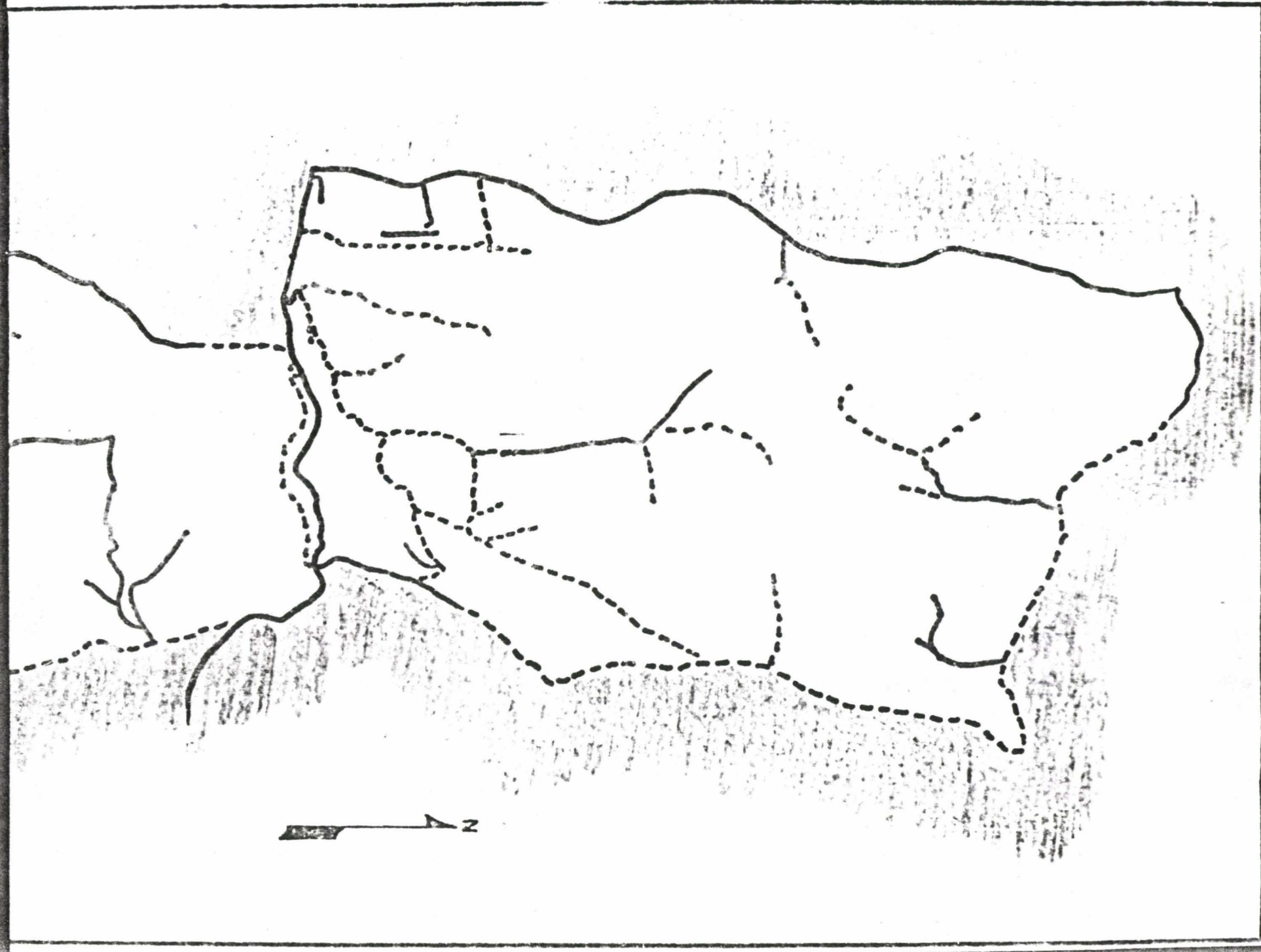

ROAD NETWORK
BLACKTOP (YR. ROUND)
GRAVEL (YR. ROUND)
GRAVEL (SEASONAL)
GRAVEL (4 W.D.)
POWERLINE
SUB UNIT III & VII BDY
SCALE: 1 IN. = 1 MI.
PMK 1/28/80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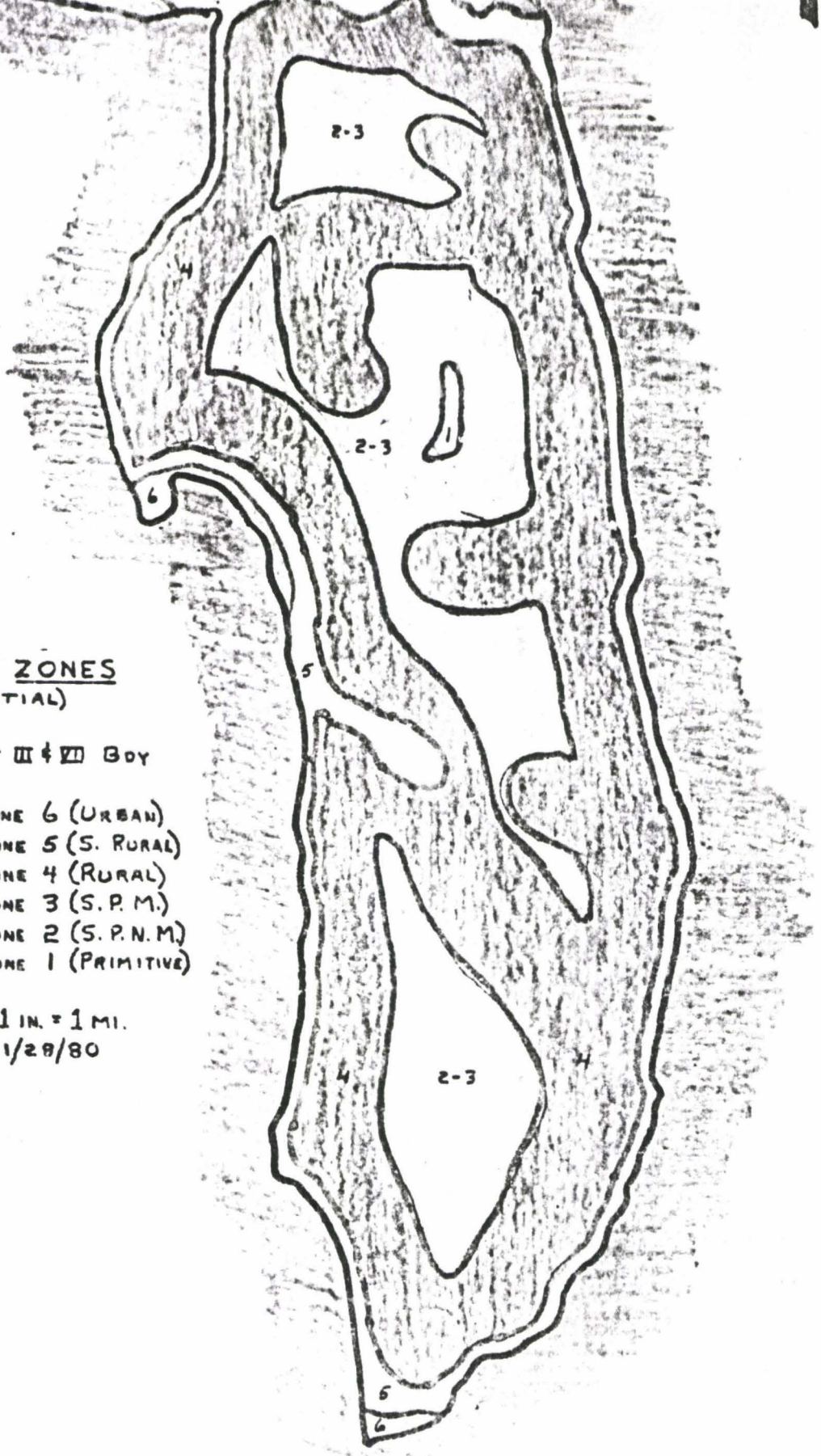
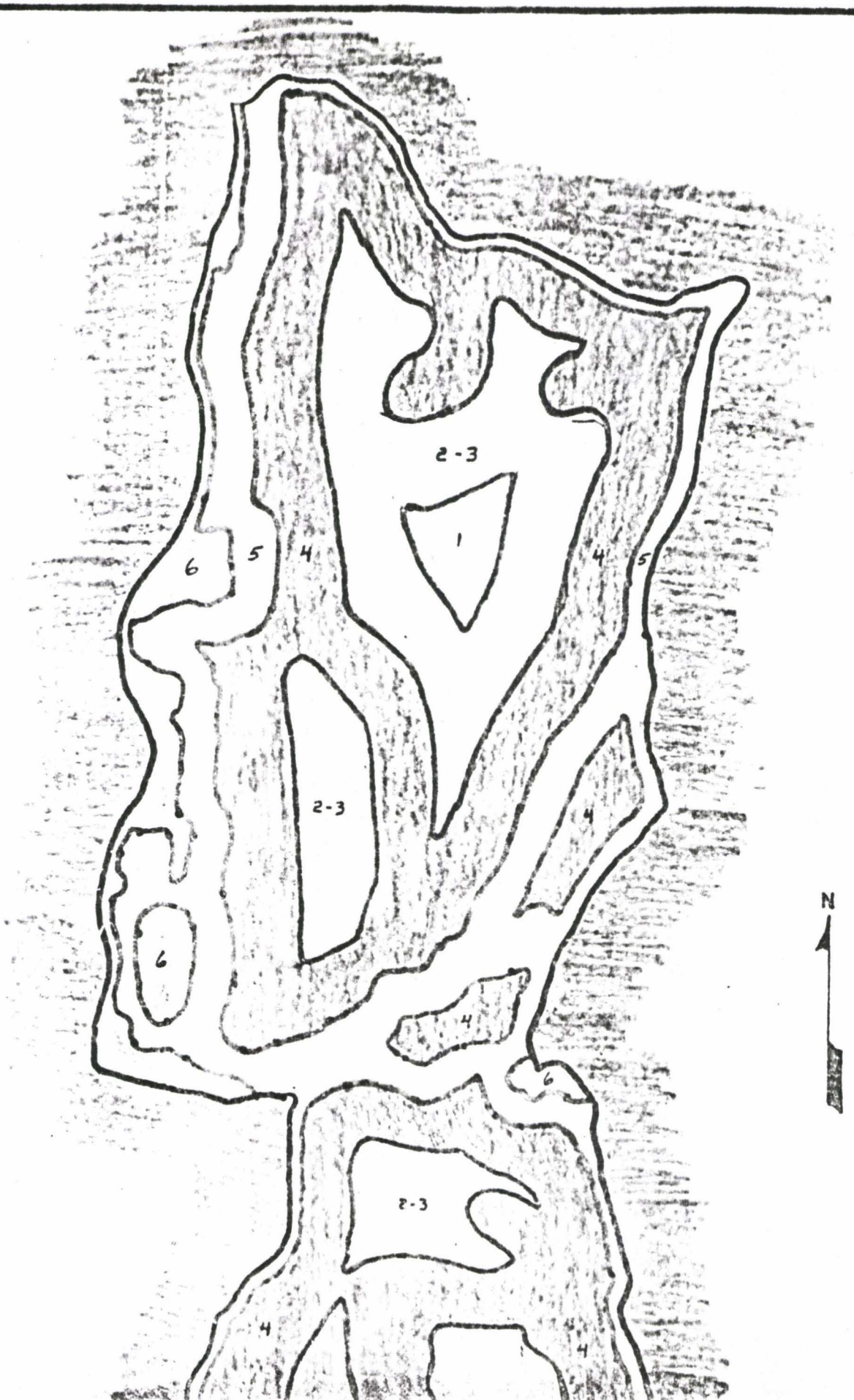


R.O.S. ZONES
(INITIAL)

— SUB UNIT III & VII BDY

- ☐ R.O.S. ZONE 6 (URBAN)
- ☐ R.O.S. ZONE 5 (S. RURAL)
- ☐ R.O.S. ZONE 4 (RURAL)
- ☐ R.O.S. ZONE 3 (S.P.M.)
- ☐ R.O.S. ZONE 2 (S.P.N.M.)
- ☐ R.O.S. ZONE 1 (PRIMITIVE)

SCALE: 1 IN. = 1 MI.
PMK 1/28/80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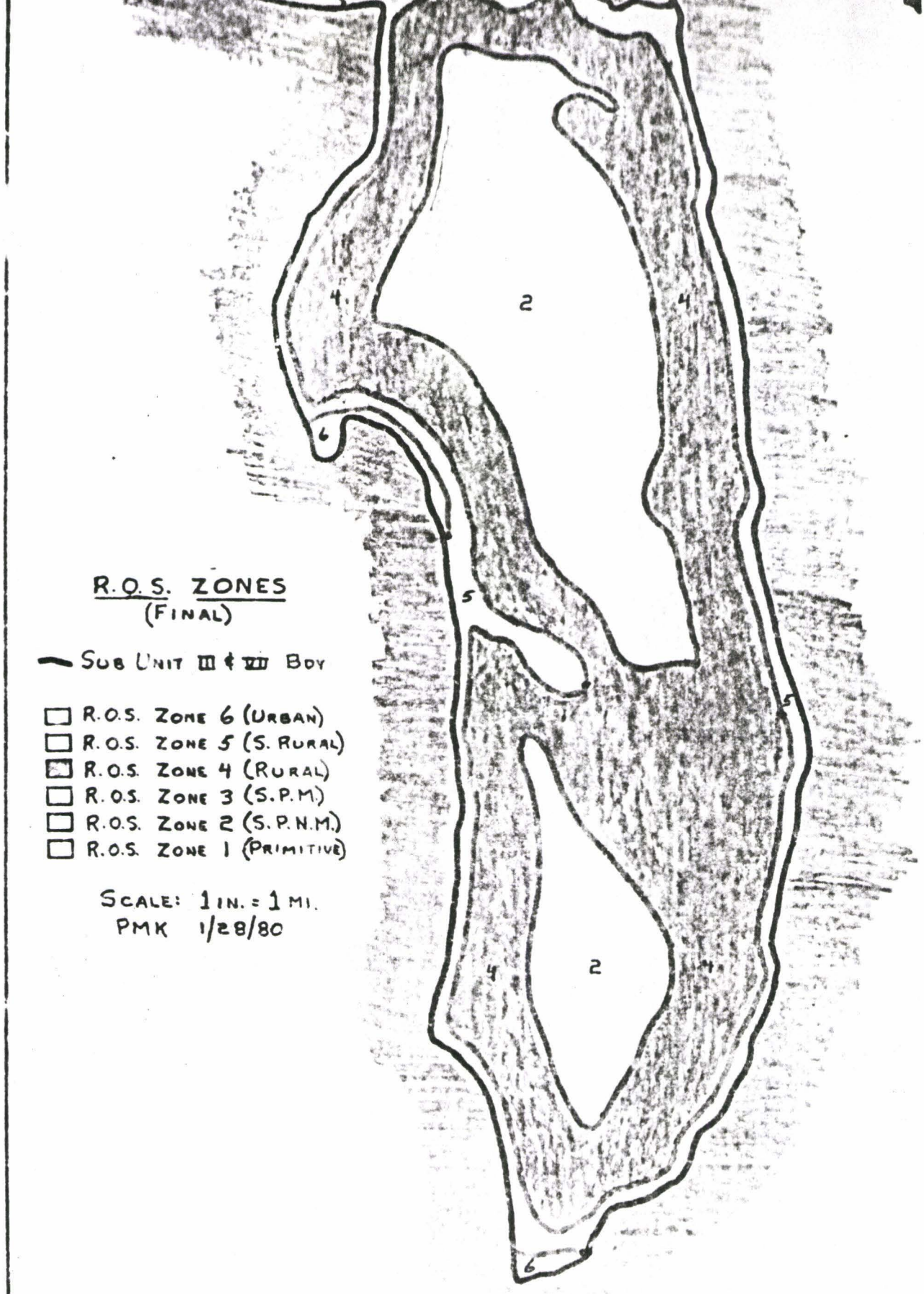
R.O.S. ZONES
(FINAL)
SUB UNIT III & VII BDY
R.O.S. ZONE 6 (URBAN)
R.O.S. ZONE 5 (S. RURAL)
R.O.S. ZONE 4 (RURAL)
R.O.S. ZONE 3 (S.P.M.)
R.O.S. ZONE 2 (S.P.N.M.)
R.O.S. ZONE 1 (PRIMITIVE)
SCALE: 1 IN. = 1 MI.
PMK 1/28/80
2
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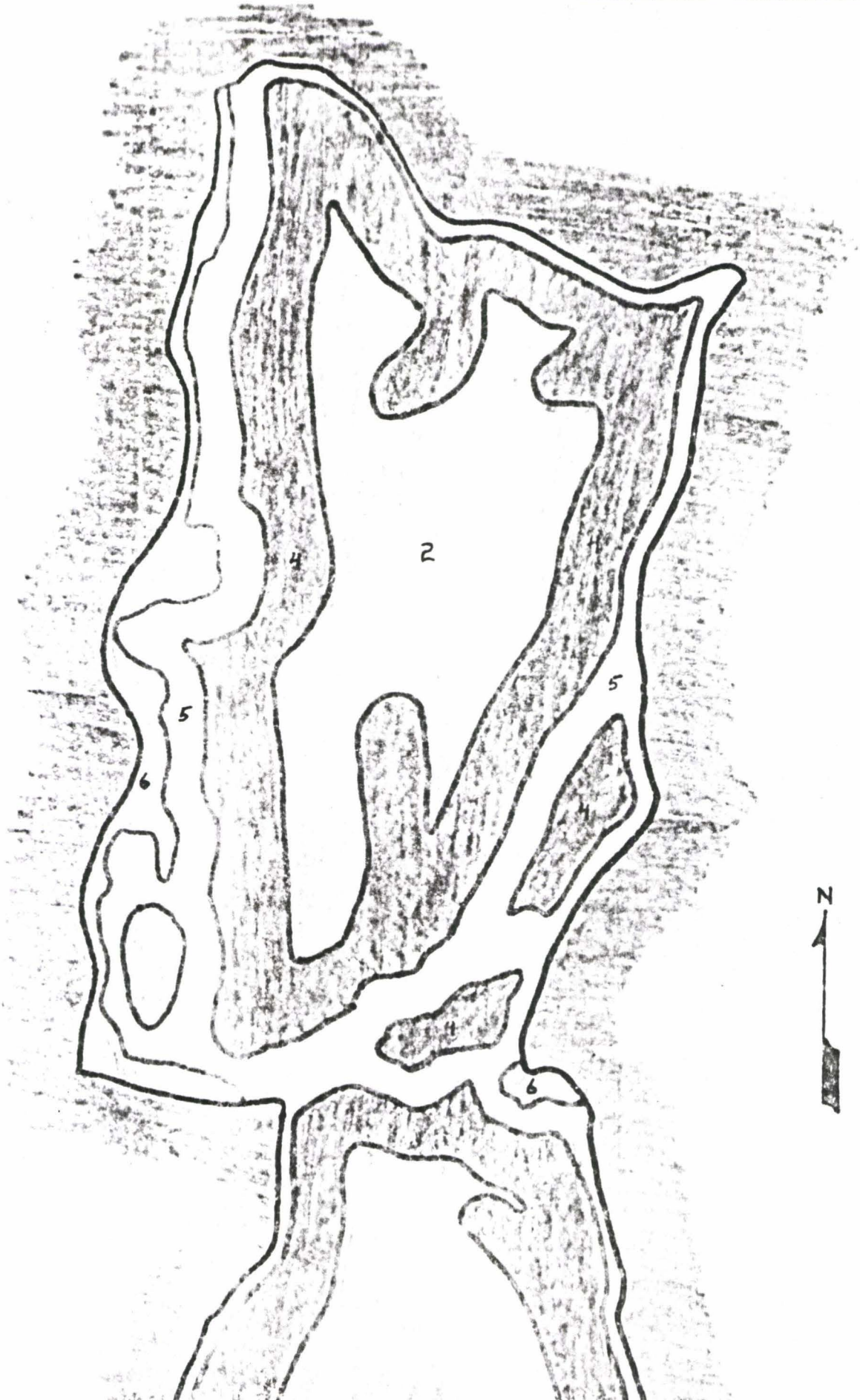
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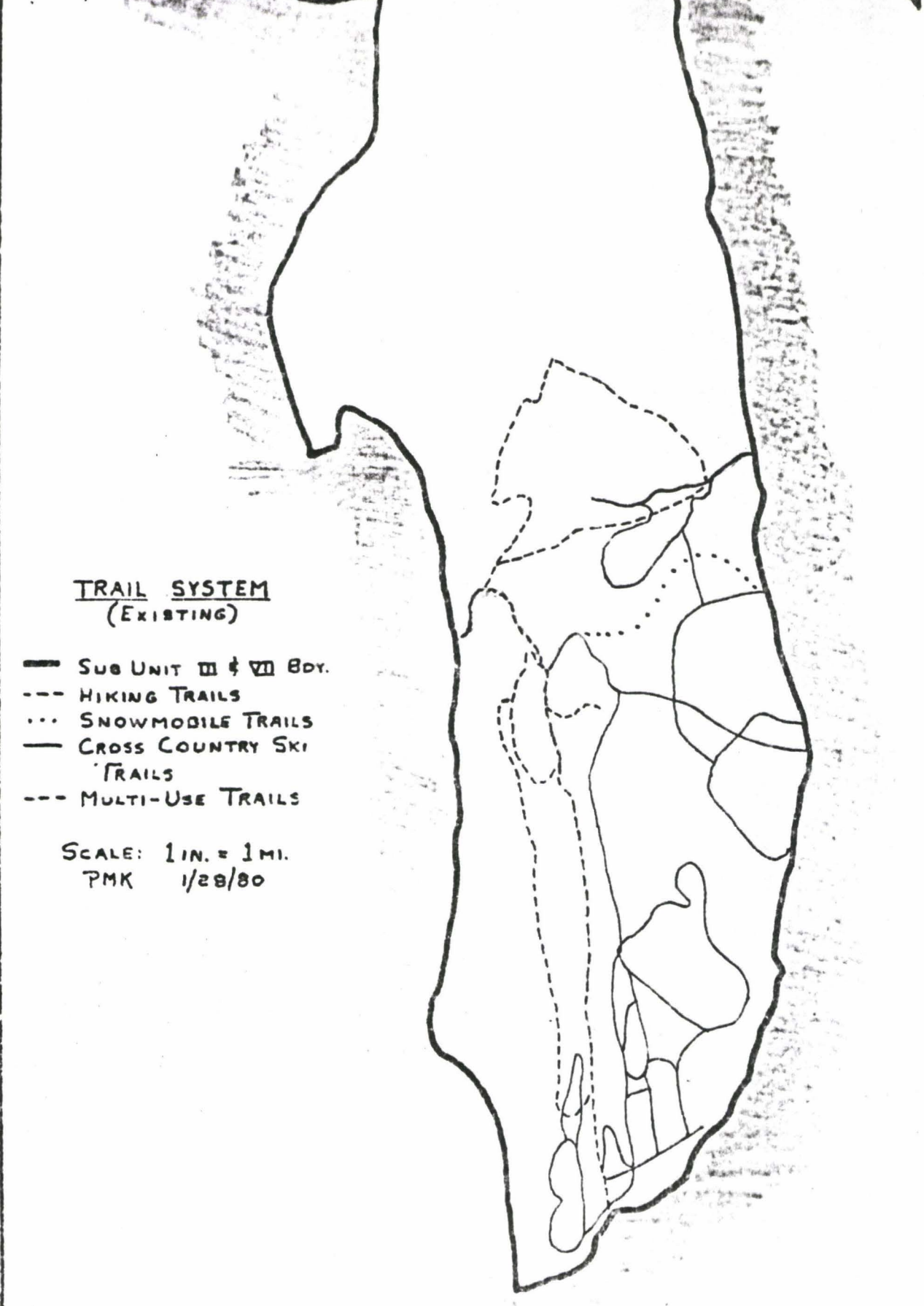
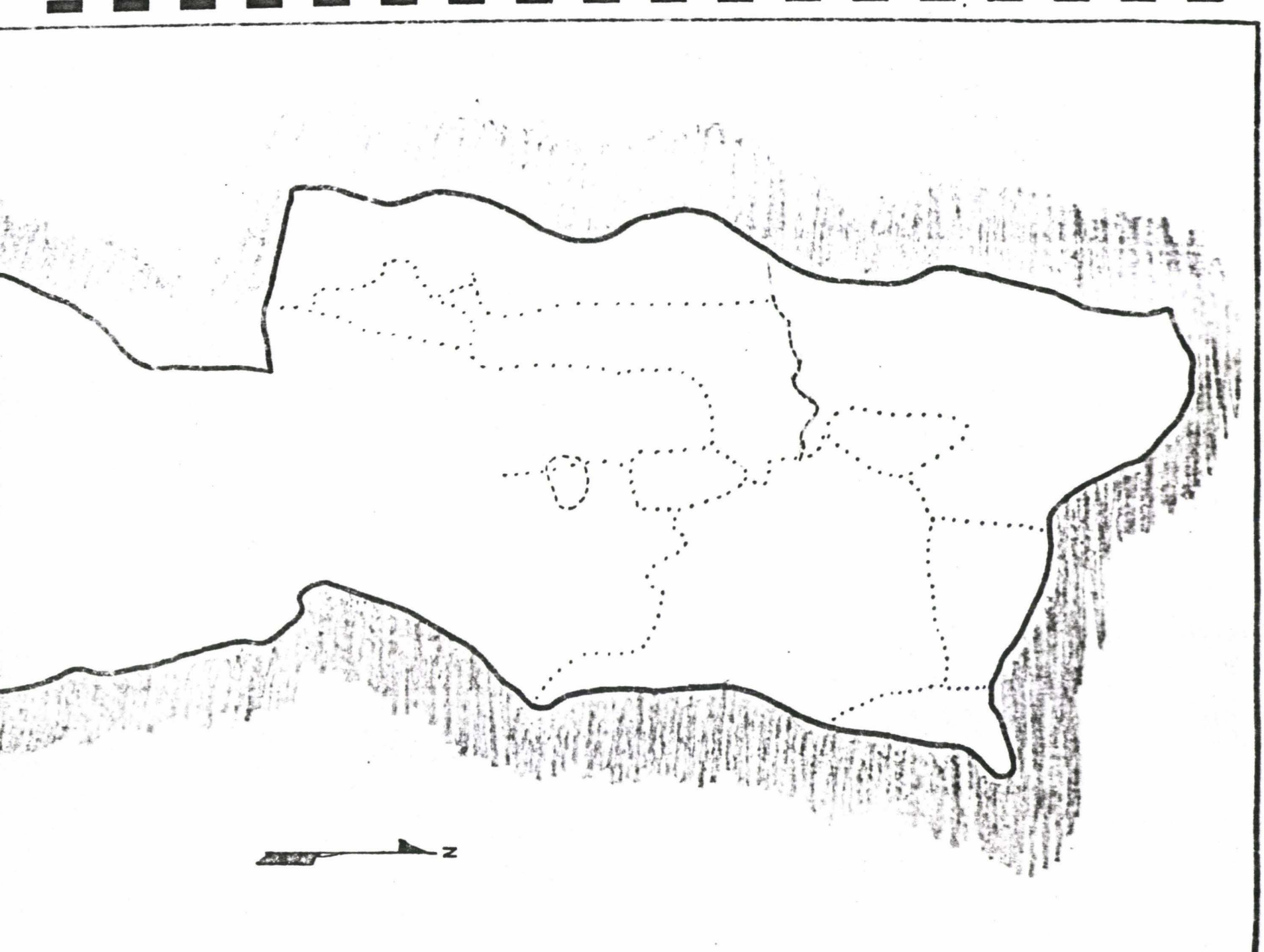

TRAIL SYSTEM
(EXISTING)
SUB UNIT III & VII BDY.
HIKING TRAILS
SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS
MULTI-USE TRAILS
SCALE: 1 IN. = 1 MI.
PMK 1/28/80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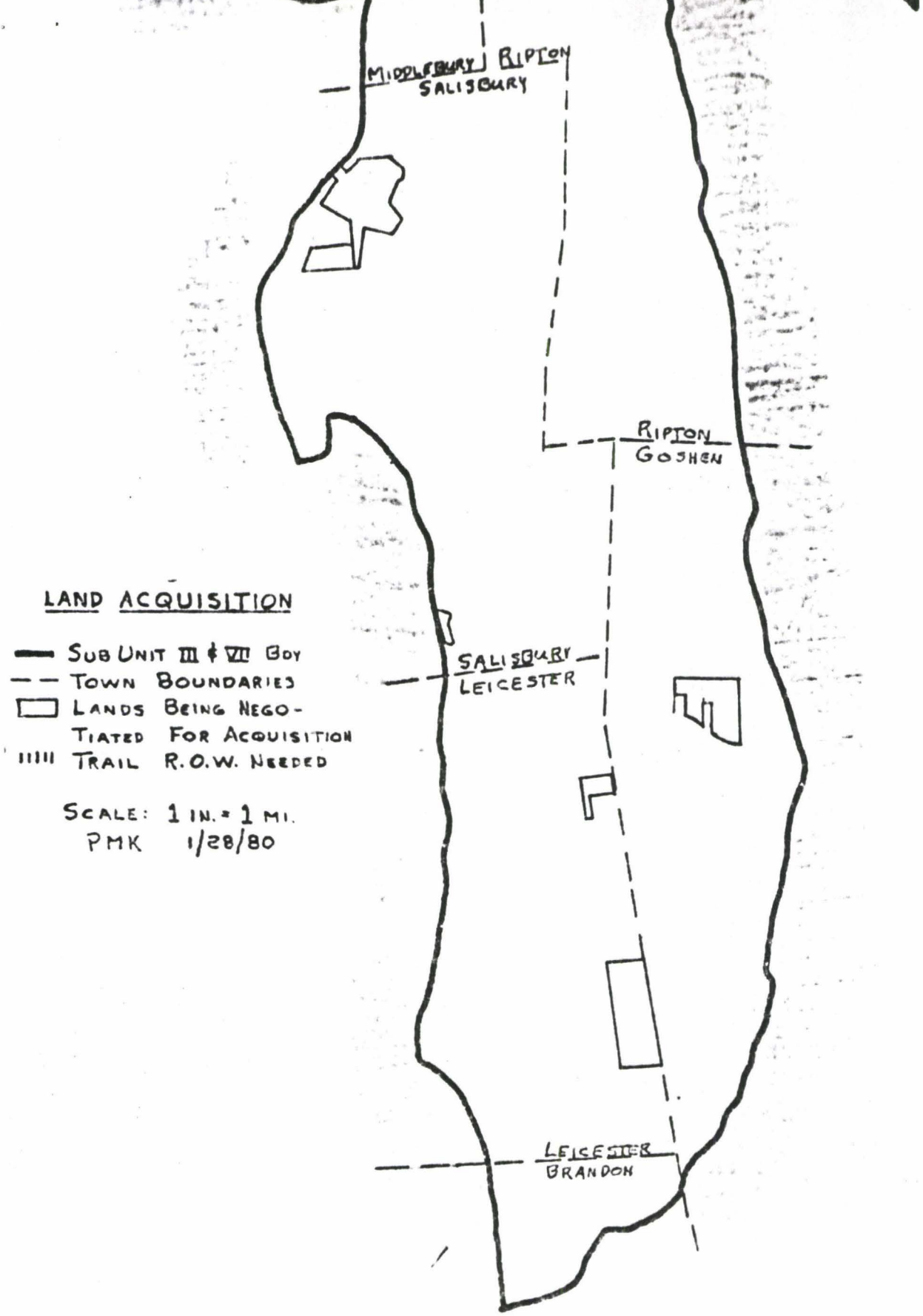
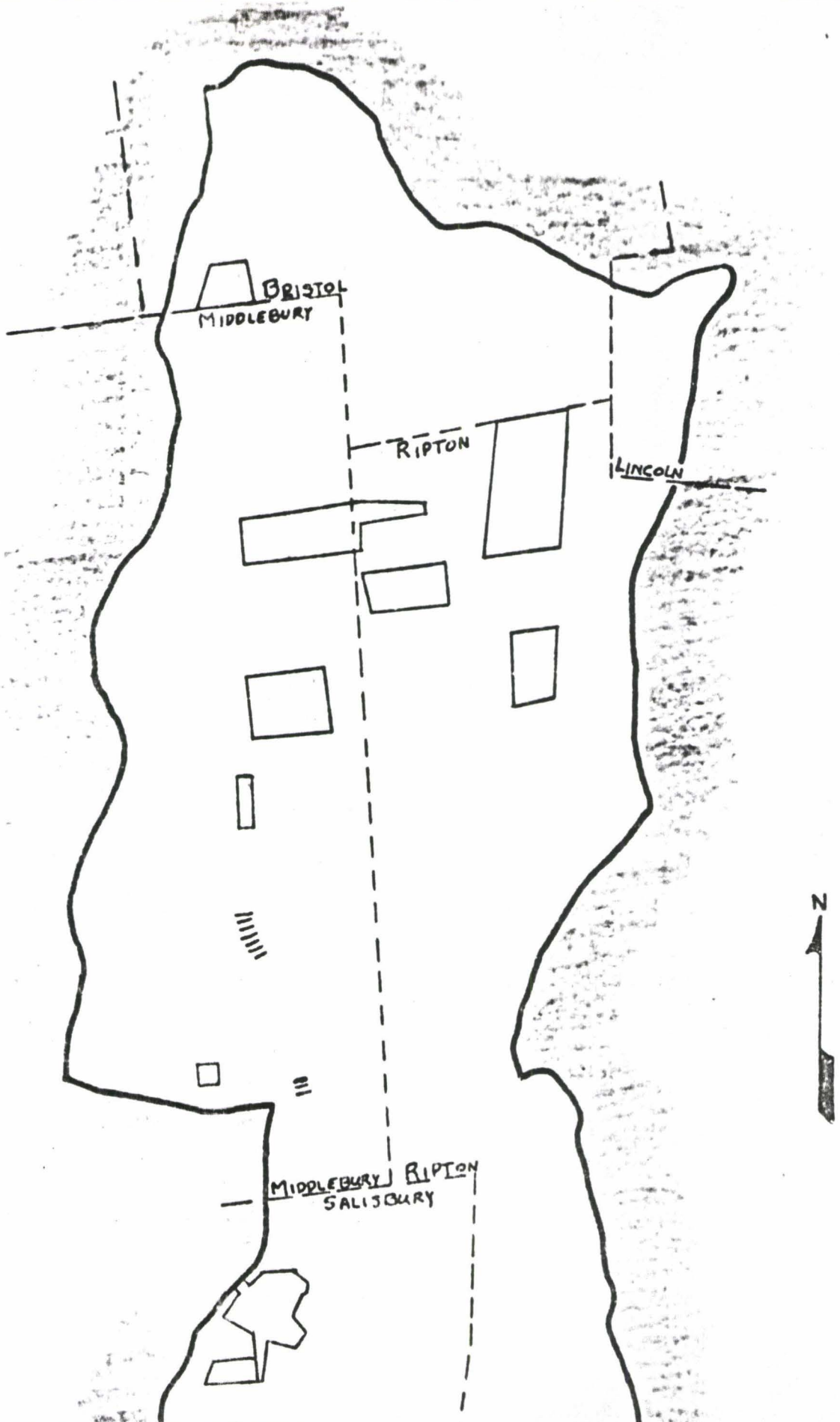
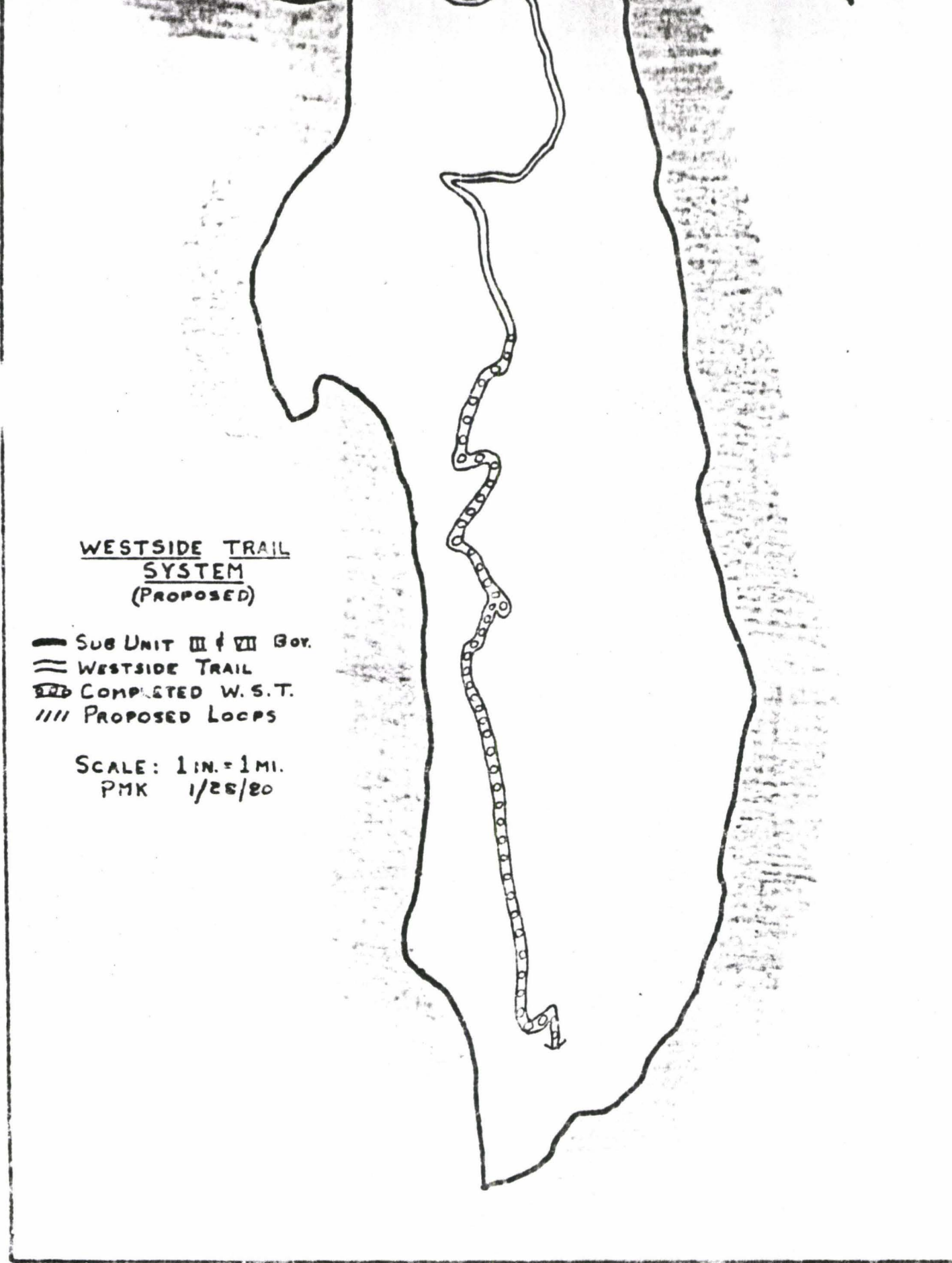

MIDDLEBURY
SALISBURY
RIPTON
RIPTON
GOSHEN
SALISBURY
LEICESTER
LEICESTER
BRANDON
LAND ACQUISITION
SUB UNIT III & VII BDY
TOWN BOUNDARIES
LANDS BEING NEGO-
TIATED FOR ACQUISITION
TRAIL R.O.W. NEEDED
SCALE: 1 IN. = 1 MI.
PMK 1/28/80


BRISTOL
MIDDLEBURY
RIPTON
LINCOLN
N
MIDDLEBURY
SALISBURY
RIPTON


WESTSIDE TRAIL
SYSTEM
(PROPOSED)
SUB UNIT III & VII Boy.
WESTSIDE TRAIL
COMPLETED W.S.T.
PROPOSED LOOPS
SCALE: 1 IN. = 1 MI.
PMK 1/28/80

N